



# CONNECTIONS

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June 23, 2007

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## **Mater Dei Repeats as Stock Winner, and Jefferson Takes Unlimited Class**

Forty-one cars from 36 Indiana high schools competed in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual IMSTEAs Super Mileage Challenge held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at O'Reilly Raceway Park. Nineteen cars are ran in the unlimited class, and 22 in the stock class. Visit our website at [imstea.org](http://imstea.org) for pictures.

The United States Auto Club automated timing system was used for the first time this year, and we experienced some problem getting used to its peculiarities. The system is designed for speed events, and didn't quite match our needs in some areas, but we feel it can be a great help in reducing the need for volunteer workers in the future.

Some runs were erroneously listed as being over the maximum 25-minute limit because the system clock starts when the first car crosses the starting line. Fortunately, we were able to correct this error and give the impacted teams credit for the runs.

Another problem was requiring the cars to idle for several minutes before they entered the track. We will implement different procedures next year if the USAC system is used.

## **A National Event Draws Closer**

In July the committee for a national super mileage challenge will meet in Chicago to discuss the next steps in this process. Representatives from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana will be present, and we hope to have Iowa and Illinois aboard also. Jim Thompson will attend for IMSTEAs.

A proposed set of rules has been drafted, and they contain several provisions different from the IMSTEAs rules. We hope to resolve those differences over the summer.

One rule we object to is the requirement for a roll bar on all cars. Given the speeds of the cars and the use of enclosed bodies, we see little need for such protection. If the requirement is not dropped, we will push for a stronger design than that required in the draft rules.

Seat belts are another questionable requirement of the new rules. In twelve years of competition we have seen no need for these devices.

We will keep you advised of developments in this area.

## **Jim Thompson Receives Channel 6 Leadership Award**

Jim Thompson has been selected to receive the Channel 6 Leadership Award for his work on the Super Mileage Challenge. Mike Fitzgerald nominated Jim for the award, which was presented during the 6:00 PM news hour on Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. See the picture on our website.

## **IMSTEAs Needs New Members**

Thanks to our student membership program, IMSTEAs now boasts 91 members. We hope these students will continue their membership after graduation, and we invite any Indiana student to join. Membership applications are on our website, [imstea.org](http://imstea.org)

We are always looking for new members to help us put on such programs as the Super Mileage Challenge. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining please direct them to the website.

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